

News

**Guardian annexation will add to city coffers**

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Guardian Industries' planned \$40 million expansion will add new jobs to the Kingsburg area, as well as introducing new technology to the already industrious plant. It will also add revenues to the city of Kingsburg.

As Kingsburg City Manager Don Pauley wrote in his "Kingsburg View" column last month, Guardian has begun construction on the 125,000 square-foot addition to their facility.

The new addition will include a clean room and robotic technology that will enable the placement of an energy efficient coating on the glass manufactured at Guardian's current plant.

The addition will result in new jobs, nearly 50 in all, and aid in the goal of improving air quality in the Central Valley. The glass currently produced at the Kingsburg plant is shipped elsewhere for the coating process.

Pauley said that the city is hopeful that the expansion will encourage the location of suppliers and value-added industries that use this type of glass, creating more jobs and improving the economic base.

Since Guardian's plant is within the city's sphere of influence, the expansion allowed the city to move forward on a long-held goal of annexing the plant. Under provisions of an agreement with Fresno County, the city has begun the process to annex nearly 250 acres of industrially developed land into Kingsburg, including the Sun-Maid Growers plant on Bethel Avenue, north of Kamm Avenue, and Guardian Industries and Vie Del Company on Indianola between Bethel Avenue and Golden State Boulevard.

"Two hundred and fifty acres is a big annexation, possibly the largest in Kingsburg's history," said Kingsburg Planning and Development Director Terry Schmal.

The annexation, if approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission, will place Kingsburg on the map as a player in economic development. It will also generate property tax revenue that will allow the city to stabilize revenues at a time when revenues from the state are less than stable and, in many cases, diminishing.

Schmal said that the timing is right for the annexation, mostly because the city has gotten to the edge of the annexation property and the county and the city are working closely on economic development. The economic development comes in because of the Guardian

expansion.

Schmal said that the annexation of the three properties should bring in a good amount of property taxes. He said that it's important to annex Guardian now, because the city gets a higher portion of property taxes if they do it now, instead of waiting until the property is more fully developed and the lien day for property taxes is Jan. 1.

Last month, Guardian's development was the topic of discussion at the annual meeting of the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation. Schmal said that the keynote speaker talked about Guardian's history in Kingsburg and the fact was pointed out that many of the key leaders in the Guardian corporation came through the Kingsburg plant. Schmal said that it was quite a plug for Kingsburg.

He said that much of the speakers' time was also spent talking about nanotechnology and how it will factor into the future of the Guardian expansion. "He tied it all up with the fact that the new facility in Kingsburg will be the first industry in the Valley to implement such technology," said Schmal.

(November 04, 2003 Newspaper Publication)